

CLAIMS

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1. Synthetic staple fibers for an air-laid nonwoven fabric, which staple fibers have a fiber length of 0.1 to 45 mm and a cross-sectioned profile having 1 to 30 concavities each satisfies the requirement:  $D/L = 0.1$  to 0.5, wherein D represents a largest distance between a tangent line drawn to a pair of convexities from which an opening of the concavity is defined, and a bottom of the concavity, measured in a direction at right angles to the tangent line, and L represents a distance between two points of contact of the pair of convexities with the tangent line.

2. The synthetic staple fibers for an air-laid nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 1, having a water content of 0.6% by mass or more but not more than 10% by mass.

3. The synthetic staple fibers for an air-laid nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 1, having a thickness of 5 dtex or less.

4. The synthetic staple fibers for an air-laid nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 1, having a number of crimps of 0 to 5 crimps/25 mm or 15 to 40 crimps/25 mm.

5. The synthetic staple fibers for an air-laid nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the peripheral surface of each staple fiber is formed from at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyester resins, polyamide resins, polypropylene resins, high pressure low density polyethylene resins, linear low density polyethylene resins and elastomer resins.

6. The synthetic staple fibers for an air-laid nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one functional agent adhered to the surfaces of the staple fibers, in an amount of 0.01 to 10% by mass on the basis of the mass of the staple fibers.

7. The synthetic staple fibers for an air-laid nonwoven fabric as claimed in claim 6, wherein the

functional agent is selected from the group consisting of deodorant functional agents, antibacterial functional agents, flame retardant functional agents and vermin-repellent functional agents.